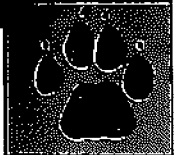


Endangered Wildlife Trust Update

Tel (011) 486-1102 Fax (011) 486-1506
 Website <http://www.ewt.org.za>
 Private Bag X11, Parkview, 2122



5071

Wildlife Breeding Resource Centre update:

Black rhino cow dies, but her legacy lives on!

The loss of a black rhino is always a tragic one, even more so when it is a pregnant cow. However, these things do happen and in the Pilansberg Game Reserve, inhabited by a number of black rhino, this was the case a number of weeks back. The unfortunate cow died under anaesthetic while veterinarians were repairing a prolapsed rectum, in all probability due to an injury caused by another rhino. This was however, not the end to her story, nor the end of her contribution to the ever-dwindling black rhino gene pool. Her ovaries were removed soon after her death and transported back to the EWT's



Wildlife Breeding Resource Centre

Wildlife Breeding Resource Centre where they underwent various procedures to remove the eggcells still trapped inside them. Eggcells were removed and cultured before undergoing in vitro fertilization with rhino sperm, also previously extracted from a rhino that had died.

The results gained by this trial have yielded invaluable information pertinent to future breeding programmes of this endangered species, and have taken high-tech breeding of endangered wildlife species that much closer to becoming a reality and a viable



Drrs Paul Bartels and Emily Lane remove the ovaries of a dead black rhino cow before taking them to the lab for extraction of her still viable eggcells.

conservation tool. The WBRC is the only dedicated centre in Africa recovering viable genetic material from threatened wildlife species that may die for whatever reason. The reproductive organs of these animals are removed by the animal's keepers, the reserve rangers, or even the hunter who may have shot the animal. Once packaged, the organs are transferred to the WBRC base at Pelindaba. At the WBRC lab, sperm is extracted from testes, and eggcells from ovaries, and various procedures are undertaken to either bank (freeze) this material for use in future breeding programmes, or for the purposes of conducting further research into the reproduction of the species. Live sperm may still be extracted directly from the testes of an animal up to four days after it has died. This sperm, once banked, remains viable for years afterwards, proven by the WBRC breakthrough in 1998 with the birth of an eland heifer from sperm which had previously been extracted from a dead eland bull and banked for two years.

Western Cape Support Group news:

Kalahari Lion Fundraising dinners: J. GAME PROMOTION

Andrew Hammond, Executive Chef at Winchester Mansions Hotel in Sea Point will be holding a Game Promotion from 10 - 25 September. Previously Executive Sous Chef at Charlton Hotel, Johannesburg, he ran similar promotions, the proceeds of which went to Wild Dog and Honey Badger projects.

Proceeds of this upcoming promotion will go to the Kalahari Lion Project. We hope to see you there along with your colleagues, friends and family.

Notice

A Western Cape Support Group fundraising dinner will be held on 17/11/99 at 19h30 for 20h00 at Kelvin Grove. Cost is R70 p.p. which includes dinner and a talk by Ann Burke on "Biology and Behaviour of Cranes" with emphasis on courtship and reproductive behaviour. Contact Liz on (021) 590-8002; 082 924 4084; email: liz.wilkie@phillips.com.

Van watter waarde is die wildehond vir die wildboer?



Wildboere beweer dat wildehonde vir hulle waardeloos is aangesien dié roofdiere op wildsbokke prooi. Indien 'n trop van 12 wildehonde een rooibok per dag vang, en 'n rooibok is R400 werd, sal die boer R146 000 (365 x R400) per jaar verloor aan potensiele inkomste.

Aan die ander kant mag 'n eko-toeris tot R600 (US\$100) betaal om na 'n wildehond den geneem te word as deel van 'n besigtigings-uitstappie. Die wildehonde vertoef ongeveer 12 weke per jaar by die den. Indien ses toeriste per dag die geleentheid kan benut, is daar die potensiaal om 'n wins van R302 400 (84 x 6 x R600) uit die wildehonde te maak en dit is net gedurende die tyd wat hulle by die den bly!

Wie sê nog wildehonde is nuttelos?! ■

Implications of extracting and storing viable genetic material from animals which have already died are enormous, especially for endangered species for whom the loss of excessive genetic material may be disastrous. If you would like to participate in this programme contact the WBRC on (012) 305 5840 or 082 990 3534/3; wbrc@global.co.za or see web page <http://ewt.org.za/wbrc>

The WBRC is further supported by the Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation, Mondri Recycling, Tau Lodge (Madikwe), Business Furniture Centre, Dallas Ecological Foundation, Houston Safari Club, Vodacom, Phillips SA, BP Southern Africa, Linton Projects, Klatzko and Waldron, Mazda Wildlife Fund, Taurus, Datasphere and Adcock Ingram Critical Care. ■

5(11)